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Iowa State University

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1990 Norden Distinguished Teacher Award

Lynae Engelken*

Dr. Albert Jergens was the 1990 Norden Distinguished Teacher Award Recipient. The fact that he won this award after less than one year of teaching at Iowa State's College of Veterinary Medicine indicates the way he relates to students and their respect and appreciation for him as a teacher.

This fall I had the privilege of having Dr. Jergens for medicine class. I must say he gives new meaning to the words "vomitus" and "diarrhea" at eight o'clock in the morning. Dr. Jergens taught the sections on renal physiology and gastroenterology. He not only comes in and lectures to the class but also uses slides to aid with the details and provide a clearer understanding of the material he presents. In addition, he provides students with an excellent set of updated lecture notes. Everyday at the close of lecture, he takes five minutes to cover a case that he has had in the clinics that relates directly to the days lecture. Students find this gives the practical aspect of the material he has covered and helps to reinforce the information he covered.

Dr. Jergens takes an interest in students. He will frequently ask the class how they are doing and whether he lectures too fast or too slow. He understands the students' problems, frustrations and feelings.

Dr. Jergens is in the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences in the area of general small animal medicine. His special interests are gastroenterology, urology and oncology. Dr. Jergens is fond of cats and helps teach the Feline Internal Medicine elective.

In addition, Dr. Jergens works with the internal medicine residents. He feels this helps him stay current on the latest research topics in his field. He enjoys being able to learn new things and says "not a day goes by when I don't learn something new" otherwise he would wonder if he was in the right occupation. Endoscopy is a very important diagnostic tool

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for Dr. Jergens and he enjoys using it and teaching others to use it. Endoscopy provides an insight into the gastrointestinal tract that no other tool can match.

He is also currently working on his Master's Degree in Veterinary Pathology. His research interests include Inflammatory Bowel Disease and hemostasis.

Dr. Jergens received his DVM degree in 1983 from Texas A&M. He has Bachelor degrees in Biomedical Science and Veterinary Science. He practiced in Houston, Texas in a small animal and exotic (mostly avian) clinic. Then he did his residency at the University of Missouri-Columbia in small animal internal medicine. Following his residency, he went to Boston, MA where he served as a Staff Internist for two years at Angell Memorial Animal Hospital. In 1988, Dr. Jergens became Board Certified in Internal Medicine. In June, 1989 he and his wife, Dr. Kris Miles, DVM came to Ames. Dr. Miles is a Radiologist also in the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences.

In addition to being a clinician, teaching, and working on his Master's degree Dr. Jergens is also SCAMVA Advisor, involved with the Mentor Program, and Faculty Advisor for the Association of Avian Veterinarians.

Dr. Jergens has always liked academic things, especially reading and learning. This helped direct him into teaching and a research oriented career. He also enjoys seeing people learn and then watching them progress to taking over responsibilities so he is free to move on to bigger and newer things. He gets a personal satisfaction out of seeing people he has worked with do well.

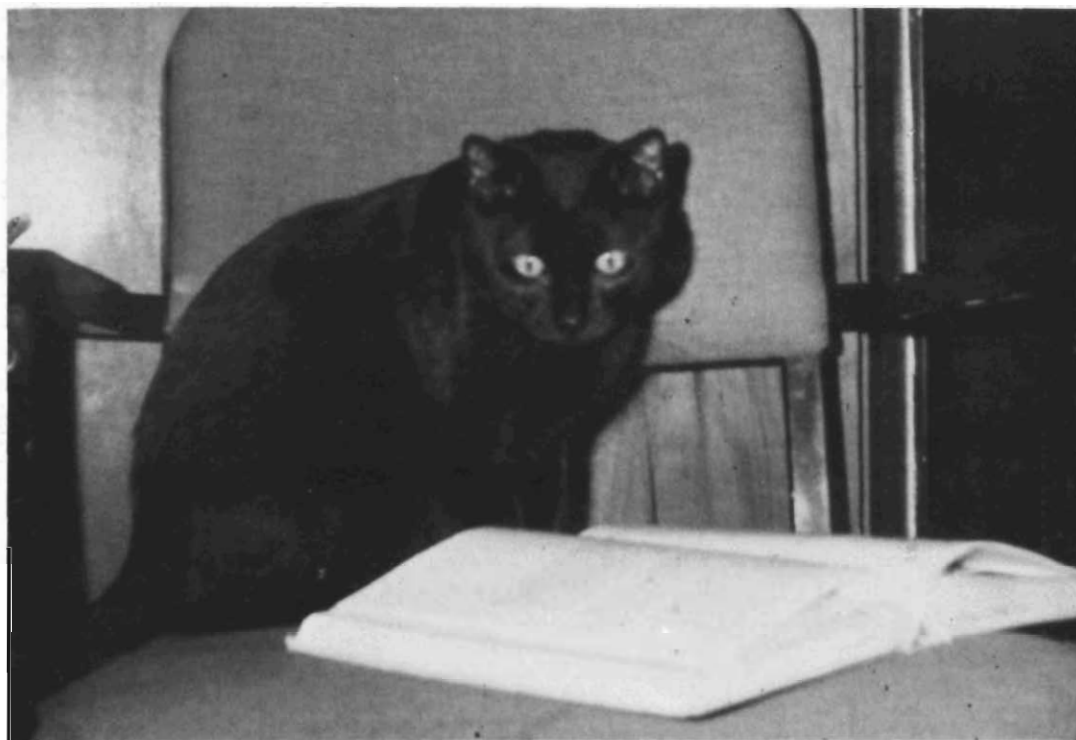
Dr. Jergens hobbies include running, lifting weights, and biking. He also likes live rock and roll and collects antique clocks.

Dr. Jergens brought with him a love of Texas as junior students can tell from his opening lecture slides. But he says he likes Iowa and Ames and is glad to be here. And I must say that we enjoy having him at Iowa State to work with and to instruct us.



Dr. Albert Jergens

Diane Thein



Amy Finken